



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/084,381 | 02/28/2002 | Michael Maker | 7200 | 6267 |
| 7590 | 01/15/2004 | | EXAMINER | |
| SHLESINGER, ARKWRIGHT & GARVEY LLP 3000 South Eads Street Arlington, VA 22202 | | | MUSSER, BARBARA J | |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 1733 | 6 |
| DATE MAILED: 01/15/2004 | | | | |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|--|
| | 10/084,381 | MAKER ET AL. | |
| | Examiner Barbara J. Musser | Art Unit 1733 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102/103

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 2, 4, and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Minke et al.(DE 4324970A1).

DE 4324970A1, having a common inventor with the application, discloses a method of forming an embossing roller by etching a roller having a smooth plastic film surface with a laser which moves along the surface of the roller and is controlled such that it forms a desired pattern on the roller surface. A uniform layer of silicone rubber is then applied to the patterned surface and vulcanized. It is then removed from the roller, inverted, and bonded to a different roller to form an embossing roller. The laser is modulated in accordance corresponding electrical information obtained by scanning the original pattern.(English Abstract, Oral translation)

Art Unit: 1733

In the alternative, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the surface of the roller smooth before laser etching as this would require destruction of less material and to control the movement of the laser to be congruent with a pattern in its memory as this would allow cutting of a pattern in an automated way.

Regarding claims 2 and 5, since the reference shows the silicone rubber layer being removed from the patterned surface, one in the art would understand that the patterned surface is formed such that the rubber layer can be separated from it.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 3 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Minke et al. as applied to claims 2 and 5 above, and further in view of Goto et al.(U.S. Patent 5,397,417)

The references cited above do not disclose the material forming the patterned surface is nitrile butadiene rubber but does disclose it is a plastic material. Goto et al. discloses cutting a design into a sheet of nitrile butadiene rubber using a laser.(Col. 4, II. 49-50; Col. 5, II. 49-51) It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the material used to form the patterned layer

from any conventional type of material which can be cut by a laser such as nitrile butadiene rubber since Goto et al. discloses nitrile butadiene rubber can be cut by a laser and since it would have been obvious to use an elastomeric material to make it easier to remove the rubber layer from the patterned surface.

Information Disclosure Statement

6. The information disclosure statement filed 5/16/02 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3) because it does not include a concise explanation of the relevance, as it is presently understood by the individual designated in 37 CFR 1.56(c) most knowledgeable about the content of the information, of each patent listed that is not in the English language. It has been placed in the application file, but the information referred to therein has not been considered.

While the German examiner clearly cited and perhaps used the references, a determination of relevance could not be made as the German office action was still in German. It is suggested a translation of the office action be submitted if applicant desires the information contained therein and the patents used therein to be of record. Since DE3405985 and DE4441216 were discussed in applicant's specification, this is considered a sufficient statement of relevance.

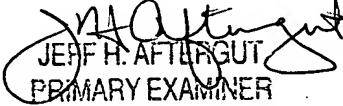
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Barbara J. Musser** whose telephone number is (571)

272-1222. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday; alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Crispino can be reached on (571)-272-1226. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.


BJM


JEFF H. AFTERGUT
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 1300